

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) Tire tread comprising elements in relief, each element in relief comprising a running face and at least one two lateral face faces, at least one element in relief being provided with at least one incision intersecting the running face from one end to the other of the at least one incision when the tread is new, the at least one incision defined along a mean plane, wherein the tread comprises at least two lateral holes, oriented in a mean direction, passing through said element in relief and substantially parallel to the mean plane of the incision, wherein opposite ends of each of the holes open onto at least one lateral face respective lateral faces of said element in relief, and wherein at least two lateral holes are situated on one and the same side of the mean plane of the incision, and wherein all of said holes are spaced from said at least one incision.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended) Tread according to claim 1, wherein at least two lateral holes are distributed over the height of the incision.

4. (Currently Amended) Tread according to claim 1, wherein the at least one element in relief is provided with at least two incisions defined along mutually parallel mean planes.

5. (Original) Tread according to claim 1, wherein the mean direction of the lateral holes forms an angle other than zero with the circumferential direction of the tread.

6. (Currently Amended) Tread according to claim 1, wherein the mean direction of the lateral holes is substantially parallel to the surface running face of the tread.

7. (Original) Tread according to claim 1, wherein the incisions are defined along a substantially meridian mean plane.

8. (Original) Tread according to claim 1, wherein the sectional area of the lateral holes is between 0.75 and 5 mm².

9. (Original) Tread according to claim 1, wherein the section of the lateral holes is circular and wherein its diameter is between 1 and 2.5 mm.

10. (Original) Tread according to claim 1, wherein the volume of the lateral holes is greater than 20% of the volume of the element in relief.

11. (Currently Amended) Tread according to claim 1, wherein the incisions are of the self-locking type at least one incision is defined by two side surfaces, one of the side surfaces having portions thereof overlying respective portions of the other side surface, wherein the incision is self-locking when the portions of the side surfaces are forced together in response to compression of the element in relief.

12. (Currently Amended) Tread according to claim 1, wherein the lateral holes are distributed over a height at least equal to the depth of the incisions at least one incision.

13. (Currently Amended) Tread according to claim 1, wherein in an element in relief, and the at least one incision comprises two incisions formed in the element, and wherein between the two incisions[[],] the lateral holes are distributed along at least two planes which are substantially parallel to one another and parallel to the respective mean planes of the incisions.

14. (Original) Tread according to claim 13, wherein the lateral holes are so distributed that they zigzag from one plane to the other.

15. (New) Tread according to claim 1 wherein the holes and the mean plane are oriented substantially parallel to an axis of rotation of the tread.